

OVERVIEW

The AFF has legal, financial, privacy, and governance-related obligations to both athletes and the broader fencing community. In the context of this, the AFF is often contacted, or has dialogue with third parties wishing to act on behalf of athletes. It is in the context of these third party engagements that the AFF now wishes to clarify its policy in relation to communications with athletes.

PARTIES INVOLVED

There are a number of parties that may be involved with athletes and communications with them. These are:

- The athlete
- The athlete's parents or legal guardians (whether the athlete is a minor or not)
- The athlete's spouse or partner
- The State Sporting Association (SSA) where the athlete is affiliated
- The athlete's coach
- Staff of the AFF, including financial, coaching, and High Performance Management staff
- Other organisations, such as Institutes of Sport

This Policy relates primarily to the AFF's communications with the athlete; communications relating to information about the athlete are covered by the AFF's Privacy Policy and the Member Protection Policy.

THE POLICY

The AFF and its Commissions will communicate directly with the athlete, or where the athlete is a minor, their parent(s) and/or legal guardian, on matters relating to:

- Finance, including invoices, debts due, payment plans, etc.
- Selection matters, including Category E Assessment requests, ranking queries, nominations, selections, and appeals.
- Tours and event entry.
- Local (AFC) competition entry

On matters that the AFF considers to be athlete-related, the AFF and its Commissions will not communicate with:

- The athlete's parents, where the athlete is no longer a minor;
- The athlete's coach;
- A club president or representative;
- Anyone managing a local or overseas tour where that tour is not an AFF tour;
- Anyone else that the AFF considers to be speaking on behalf of an adult athlete, or group of athletes

However, where an athlete communicates with the AFF, and copies in a third party on that communication, then the AFF will respect that inclusion, and will copy the included third party when it communicates with the athlete. The obligation for primary communication in this situation remains with the athlete.